

Highlight News / March 07, 2022



- Cambodia's insurance industry grows by 9.5 percent to \$293.3 million in premiums in 2021
- Garment, footwear and travel goods Development Strategic Plan to attract more investment
- Unitel, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry extend cooperation in study on digitalisation of irrigation systems
- Onion market fallout hits growers
- Russia-Ukraine crisis hits local livestock industry



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

Cambodia's insurance industry grows by 9.5 percent to \$293.3 million in premiums in 2021



Cambodia News | 06 March, 2022

Cambodia's insurance industry reported a total premium of \$293.4 million in 2021, up 9.5 percent year-on-year, despite the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a report of the Insurance Regulator of Cambodia (IRC) on Saturday. The growth was generated from 18 general insurers, 14 life insurers, seven micro-insurance companies and one reinsurance firm, the report said. The gross premium of general insurance market in 2021 was almost \$123 million, an increase of 7.4 percent compared to 2020, while life insurance premium totaled \$170.4 million, up 11 percent, the report added. IRC's director general Bou Chanphirou said at a dissemination seminar on sub-decree on insurance on Friday that the insurance industry has been playing an important role in supporting social and economic sectors. "With Cambodia's political stability and positive economic growth under the leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen, the insurance market has been growing rapidly," he said. Chanphirou said the insurance industry contributed about 1.1 percent to the kingdom's gross domestic product (GDP). According to the IRC, the country's insurance penetration stood at 1.1 percent last year, slightly up from 1.04 percent in the year before, while insurance density amounted to \$17.5 per capita, up from \$16.3. Xinhua

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501036523/cambodias-insurance-industry-grows-by-9-5-percent-to-293-3-million-in-premiums-in-2021/>

Garment, footwear and travel goods Development Strategic Plan to attract more investment



Cambodia News | 06 March, 2022

Cambodia's strategic plan on garment, footwear and travel goods development 2021-2024 will attract more investments and contribute to sustainable development in the sector. Ith Samheng, Minister of Labour and Vocational Training, made the note in a meeting with Okhna Kong Sang, President of Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC) here in Phnom Penh this week. The plan also includes measures and strategic framework in line with the economic growth pathway in the context of COVID-19, continued the minister. The minister spoke highly of GMAC's role in supporting the rights and legal interests of investors in the sector. According to Okhna Kong Sang, Cambodia's garment export was valued at over \$11.389 billion in 2021, up \$1.505 billion or 15.2 percent. Of the total amount, \$8.017 billion was derived from the exports of clothes, \$1.390 billion from footwear, \$1.490 billion from travel goods, and the rest from other textile products GMAC currently has 462 member factories producing garments, 13 producing footwear and 92 producing travel goods, he added.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501036530/garment-footwear-and-travel-goods-development-strategic-plan-to-attract-more-investment/>

Unitel, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry extend cooperation in study on digitalisation of irrigation systems



Laos News | 07 March, 2022

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Star Telecom Company Limited (Unitel) have extended cooperation in a feasibility study on the digital transformation of irrigation management, in accordance with Industry 4.0. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to extend the time was signed on Friday in Vientiane between the Deputy Director General of the Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Khamphachanh Vongsana, and Deputy Managing Director Mr Bounmy Malavong. The signing was witnessed by Deputy Minister of National Defence, Major General Dr Vongkham Phommakon, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Phet Phomphiphak, and General-Director of Unitel, Mr Luu Manh Ha, along with officials from both parties. The MOU is a reference for the cooperation of both parties in a study on the development of water supply services using digital systems and to study and develop technical services in relation to irrigation, agriculture and fishery. These activities will improve water management and services around irrigation for the government and the

general public in accordance with “digital transformation” through the use of advanced technology, in line with the government’s policy and plans for national development. Cooperation involves joint research to develop solution products and digital technology for platform system development for irrigation, agriculture, livestock breeding, fisheries and human resource development, for the benefit of both sides. Areas of cooperation include the study and development of a water resource management project platform in basin areas to support production through increased productivity and reduced risk of flooding and drought. The study will also consider the development of farm water operations and a management project platform in rice cultivation, aimed at saving water so that crops are cultivated efficiently while reducing production costs. The study will assess ways to develop the agriculture plantation water management project to provide modern water supplies for crop cultivation in a shaded system, for farmland, fruit trees, industrial tree plantations, and pasture for the grazing of animals. The study will also look at ways to develop the livestock and fisheries management project to supply a modern system for the provision of irrigated water for livestock and fishery, with the aim of reducing labour and production costs. The first study was located in three areas of Vientiane, namely the

Xanghuabo irrigation project in Pakngum district, a multi-agriculture garden in Oudomphon village, Xaythany district, and the Houayxon-Houayxua Agricultural Technical Development Centre in Naxaithong district. Under the extended cooperation, the two sides agreed to carry out more studies in Xanghuabo in Pakngum district and a multi-agriculture garden in Oudomphon village, Xaythany district. The Houayxon-Houayxua Agricultural Technical Development Centre will be implemented after these two areas have been assessed. The Irrigation Department and Unitel signed a Memorandum of Understanding on digital transformation in the irrigation sector 4.0 industrial era in Laos on October 20, 2020.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Unitel_45_22.php

Onion market fallout hits growers



Myanmar News | 07 March, 2022

Onion growers in Pwintbyu Township are struggling to survive with the collapse of onion market. The residents in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region execute agriculture throughout the year with the use of irrigation network of Mezali diversion weir and underground water. Despite the high yield, the growers are battered by the price drop, onion growers stressed. "We primarily cultivate onions in monsoon and winter in our region. Approximately 3,000-4,000 viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg) are produced per acre. When onions were priced

around K1,500-K2,000 per viss in the previous years, the growers were happy with it. The prevailing prices (K300-K400 per viss) cannot cover the input cost," a grower elaborated. The cultivation cost is around K1 million per acre. The residents in Pwintbyu Township are expecting the high price. The onion market remains sluggish as the foreign demand has dried up, onion traders stated. In early 2020, the onion fetched K1,200-K1,300 per viss. The onion growers as well as traders have been experiencing market fallouts due to the COVID-19 impacts, said onion dealer from Mandalay. Next, Bangladesh's demand for Myanmar's onions coupled with high demand in the local market hiked up prices, soaring up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November 2019, according to the Mandalay commodity depot. The high demand by foreign markets and remarkable rise in price prompted the growers to expand the onion cultivation in 2020. Unfortunately, the market is getting worse amidst the COVID-19 negative consequences. The prices of domestic onions exceeded K3,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019. The onions are primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State.—Ye Win Naing (NyaungU), KK/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlnm.com.mm/onion-market-fallout-hits-growers/#article-title>

Russia-Ukraine crisis hits local livestock industry



Vietnam News | 05 March, 2022

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam's livestock industry is likely to be hurt due to the increase in raw materials and animal feed prices since the Russia-Ukraine conflict began, the Agribank Securities JSC (Agriseco) has said. Russia and Ukraine are the world's top and third-largest wheat exporters, and the conflict has driven prices up by 17.8 per cent. Ukraine is also the fourth-largest exporter of corn, accounting for 22 per cent of global supply. Corn prices have risen by 8.4 per cent since fighting began. Currently, local livestock breeders and animal feed producers are primarily relying on imported raw materials from these two countries. According to a report from Agriseco rising tension between Russia and Ukraine will affect global food prices. These two countries now account for about 29 per cent of global wheat exports and 19 per cent of maize. The report has said the increase in food prices is inevitable amid the current escalating tension between Russia and Ukraine. Meanwhile, the domestic livestock industry largely depends on imported raw materials from other countries ranging from wheat to cereals. It noted that rising food prices would affect the input costs of local livestock and animal feed businesses. The Vietnam Commodity Exchange has reported that farm produce prices will fluctuate due to the impact of supply and demand. Other factors such as economy, policies, and politics rarely

appear, but they substantially impact the price of farm produce. According to the Department of Husbandry under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the country's animal feed industry imports 90 per cent of its raw materials. While the price of raw materials has typically accounted for about 80-85 per cent of the production cost, the price of animal feed increased from 16 to 36 per cent in the 2020-21 period. The strongest increases were in the price of cereal. According to a report released by Yuanta Securities Vietnam Quanta, the price of raw materials increased sharply from the beginning of 2021 due to high transportation costs. Animal feed manufacturers have promptly increased their import of raw materials. The price of corn has risen by 50 per cent, soybean follows it with 38 per cent, and wheat with an increase of 62 per cent compared to early 2021. Meanwhile, the price of domestic animal feed has increased by about 30 per cent against early 2021. The company predicts that the price of animal feed may slide downward in the second half of this year as the circulation of goods will improve. According to the company, it will be difficult for local animal feed producers to keep up with the price increase of raw materials. The Ministry of Industry and Trade has forecast that the local livestock industry will continue to face many difficulties this year due to the development of the pandemic. Global supply chain disruption will also continue to affect the local livestock industry. — VNS

Source:<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1161595/rossia-ukraine-crisis-hits-local-livestock-industry.html>
